

appointments may be exercised only through the Senate's advice and consent with respect to Presidential nominees. Accordingly, I will treat these provisions as precatory.

One other point deserves mention. S. 2184 purports to "repeal" S. 1176, passed in the last session of the Congress and presented to me in December. Because the bill came to me during an adjournment of the Congress and I withheld my signature,

S. 1176 never became law. Therefore, the section of S. 2184 purporting to repeal S. 1176 can have no effect.

GEORGE BUSH

The White House,
March 19, 1992.

Note: S. 2184, approved March 19, was assigned Public Law No. 102-259.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on the President's Meeting With Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia of Bangladesh

March 19, 1992

The President and Prime Minister Zia of Bangladesh met for approximately one hour in the Oval Office and the Cabinet Room.

The President reaffirmed our strong commitment to strengthening democracy and promoting economic development in Bangladesh. The two leaders recalled Bangladesh's contribution to the successful fight against Iraqi aggression. The President said we will continue to provide economic assist-

ance and food aid to Bangladesh.

The President and Prime Minister Zia also deplored the actions of the Government of Myanmar (Burma) that have led to the massive recent influx of Burmese refugees into Bangladesh. The President announced that the United States will provide \$3 million in funding from the Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Funds to help Bangladesh with the refugees.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on the President's Telephone Conversation With President Boris Yeltsin of Russia

March 19, 1992

The President spoke with Russian President Boris Yeltsin for nearly one-half hour this morning. The two leaders discussed developments in Russia and the reform effort launched by President Yeltsin. The President expressed strong U.S. support for Russia's application for membership in the

International Monetary Fund and for the reform effort in general. They also exchanged views on the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh and agreed that both Russia and the U.S. would work toward a peaceful resolution of that conflict.